ROBOT×LASERBEAM

BY TADATOSHI FUJIMAKI

Robato Hatohara, a stupidly serious, creepily thorough and socially clueless high school boy, appears to have no interest in anything—including joining his friend Tomoya in the golf club. But when it's discovered that his perfect accuracy and calculations enable him to golf like a practiced professional, will he be able to escape playing golf?

PREVIOUSLY IN *ROBOT×LASERBEAM*:

After Robato Hatohara demonstrates his perfect swing, famous high school golfer Yozan Miura declares him to be his rival! But for their rivalry to actually grow, Robo needs to join the golf club and become a regular. A second-year student and regular, Rion Osanai, takes Robo under his wing to accomplish this goal and help him get a score of 70 before the training camp. Robo survives the athletic training for the team, but his score isn't good enough to compete in the training camp. But then Kyosuke Suzaku, a.k.a. "the Emperor," appears and challenges Robo to play against him in the practice match!

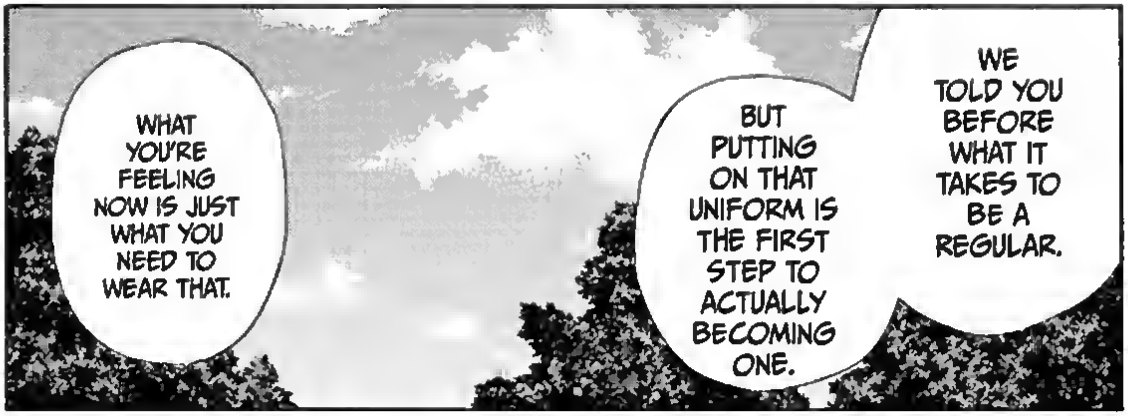
Round 15: Declaration of War

THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A GAME PLAYED BY THE NATION'S TOP SCHOOL.
THE MEMBERS WHO WON'T BE PARTICIPATING BUT HAVE PERMISSION TO WATCH FROM THE GALLERY WILL LEARN A LOT.
IT'S JUST LIKE THE STARTING HOLE IN AN OFFICIAL GAME!
THIS ENERGY IS AMAZING...
HM?
WELL DONE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE EVEN GOT AN EXTRA BUS SO ALL THE MEMBERS COULD COME.
I'LL BE FINE.
RION SENPAI TAUGHT ME HOW TO DO IT.
YOU'RE OKAY WITH BEING A MARKER AND ATTESTING THE SCORE, RIGHT?*
HEY, ROBO-KUN.
WSH
WSH
!!!
HOW ABOUT THE RULES AND MANNERS ...?
HE'LL BE FINE, GEN-SAN!
As long as something really unusual doesn't happen.
I WENT OVER ALL OF IT WITH HIM!

*When you have your golf score recorded by another player, after the game is over, you confirm and sign off on it.

SHUR
YOU DOING OKAY?
NO.
I'M NOT.
NOT FEELING NERVOUS, ARE YOU?
OKAY, GREAT.
IT'S NOT THAT. I REALLY DON'T FEEL NERVOUS.
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE THIS MORNING.
WHAT GIVES? THEN WHY ARE YOU SHAKING?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP A FRONT. IT'S NOT OUT OF THE ORDINARY TO GET NERVOUS.
I WANT TO GET STARTED SO BADLY I CAN HARDLY CONTAIN MYSELF.
BUT WHY IS THIS HAP-PEN-ING?
BFFT ...

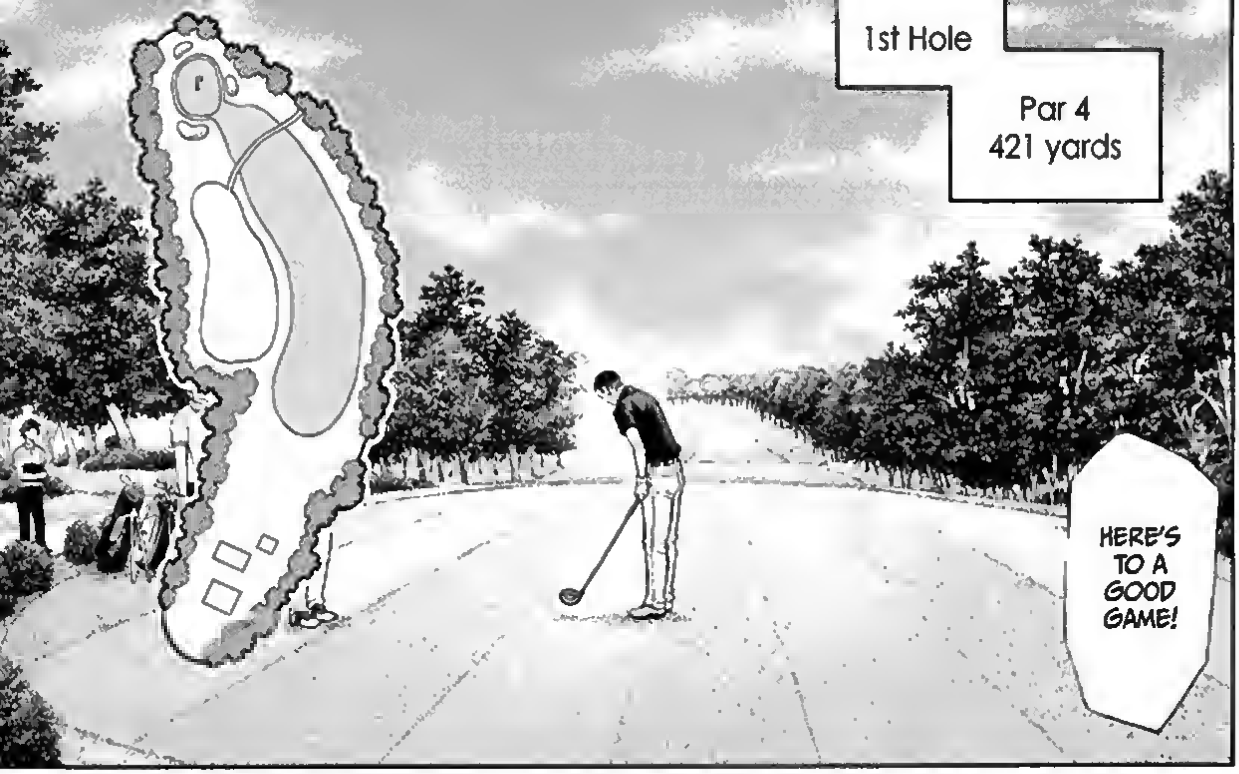
BUMP
ドン
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS CALLED TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT.
IT'S A SIGN THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO WIN.
HA HA HA HA!!
AND YOU'LL BE TAKING ON SUZAKU.
I LIKE IT! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU!
?
ME...?
I WANT TO WIN?
YOUR UNIFORM MAY NOT BE OFFICIAL YET, BUT...
...YOU'RE ALREADY PLENTY QUALIFIED TO WEAR IT.
ROBO-KUN.
GOOD LUCK.


WHAT YOU'RE FEELING NOW IS JUST WHAT YOU NEED TO WEAR THAT.
BUT PUTTING ON THAT UNIFORM IS THE FIRST STEP TO ACTUALLY BECOMING ONE.
WE TOLD YOU BEFORE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A REGULAR.

SO DON'T BE AFRAID OF MESSING UP.
EVEN IF YOUR SCORE FALTERS, WE'LL STILL BE HERE.

GIVE IT YOUR ALL.
EIAI
EIAI

FIRST GROUP!
TEE OFF!!
ZSSH
...?
ROBO-KUN—
YOU DONE TALKING TO YOUR UPPER-CLASSMEN?
IGNORE
WHOA, IT'S START-ING!
GOOD LUCK, ROBO!
SH


1st Hole
Par 4
421 yards
HERE'S TO A GOOD GAME!

SWF
FWEW

THOK

IT FELL ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FAIRWAY!
CLAP
OKAY. GOOD SPOT!
CLAP
CLAP
THUMP
OOPS...
THMP
KRIK
KRIK
GUH...
GOOD LUCK, KAZAMA. YOU'RE PLAYING TODAY BECAUSE THE HEAD COACH HAS HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR SCORE.
IF YOU DON'T GET OVERLY EAGER AND JUST PLAY LIKE USUAL, YOU SHOULD BE FINE.
RIGHT!
THE CAPTAIN WAS NICE TO SAY THAT, BUT...
...THIS IS TOO MUCH PRESSURE— I FEEL LIKE MY HEART'S GOING TO BEAT OUT OF MY CHEST!
UH-OH. KAZAMA'S WICKED NERVOUS.
I DON'T BLAME HIM THOUGH.

THE MATCH JUST STARTED AND THE LAYOUT'S ALREADY A BEAST?!
BUT IF I GO TOO FAR TO THE RIGHT, IT'LL LEAVE A LOT OF DISTANCE ON THE SECOND HIT.
WITH THE PRESSURE FROM THE POND, I CAN'T BE TOO AGGRESSIVE.
AND ON THIS FIRST HOLE... THE LEFT SIDE OF THE FAIRWAY OFFERS THE BEST POSITION.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP IT FROM GOING TO THE LEFT.
GRIP
CRAP... THE ONLY THING I DON'T WANT IS TO SUDDENLY PLOP THE BALL RIGHT IN THE POND!

I LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING AGAINST YOU!

WURL
SWOOSH
KRAK

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
IT LANDED ON THE ROUGH, BUT IT'S NOT BAD.
OKAY, KAZAMA!
DSSHT
SHUR
...!
I GAVE IT MY BEST.
DAMN THAT LEFT SIDE.
ALL RIGHT.
HERE HE IS!
MURMUR

NICE TO BE HERE.

KYOSUKE SUZAKU!
THE EMPEROR.

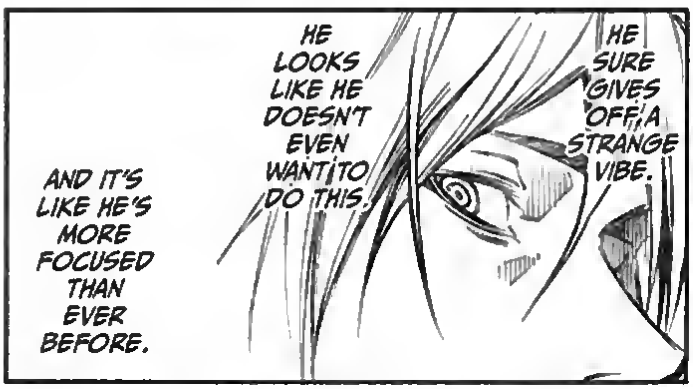
THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL GOLFER.
JUST HOW GOOD IS HE?

FWIP
ZWF
THOK

WHOOSH
IS HE NOT AFRAID OF THE POND ON THE LEFT?!
HE'S DRAWING* THE BALL?!
THE SECOND HE TOOK HIS APPROACH, HE DIDN'T HESITATE ONE BIT!
TH-THAT WAS FAST!!
AND THAT BALL...
*A ball that is struck to the right but curves left
THUMP
WHOOSH

...!
HE MADE A SUPER-AMAZING SHOT RIGHT OFF THE BAT!
WAAAAAH!
WHOAAA! IT'S JUST LEFT OF THE FAIRWAY!
THAT'S THE BEST SPOT!
...AS IT IS AGGRES-SION.
IT'S NOT SO MUCH ACCURACY ...
NO...
HIS ACCURACY IS AMAZING!
ALL OF HIS SHOTS ARE FULL-ON OFFENSIVE.
PLUS, EVEN IF HE FAILS, HE'S GREAT AT RECOVERING TO SAVE PAR.
SIMPLY PUT, SUZAKU'S STYLE CAN BE DESCRIBED AS...
...SUPER AGGRES-SIVE.

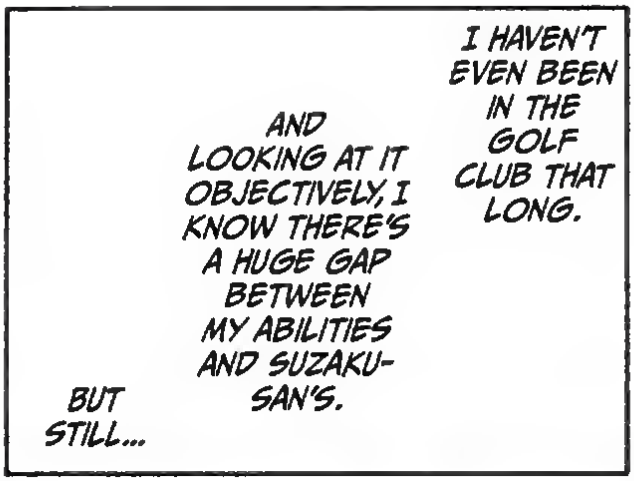
IT'S STANDARD GOLFING PRACTICE USED AROUND THE WORLD TO PRODUCE BIRDIES.
Kyosuke Suzaku
Tohoku International High School
Third-Year
Best Score: 59
東北国際


AND IT'S LIKE HE'S MORE FOCUSED THAN EVER BEFORE.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO DO THIS.
HE SURE GIVES OFF A STRANGE VIBE.

SHF
HM...

IS HE GOING TO HIT THE BALL OR NOT?
MURMUR
...?
WHAT IS IT?
MURMUR

ROBO ...?!


I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN IN THE GOLF CLUB THAT LONG.
AND LOOKING AT IT OBJECTIVELY, I KNOW THERE'S A HUGE GAP BETWEEN MY ABILITIES AND SUZAKU-SAN'S.
BUT STILL...

I DON'T GET IT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...I'VE EVER FELT LIKE THIS.

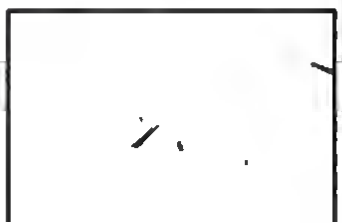
I WANT TO WIN...
OH.
SO THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING ...

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE AT DOING SOME-THING I LOVE.
DO YOU NEED A REASON FOR SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

KLAK

I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL JUST LIKE I WAS TOLD.
LET'S DO THIS.

GRP



THOK

WHA ...?!
ZWOOOM
ARE YOU SERIOUS? IT'S ON THE LEFT SIDE, JUST LIKE SUZAKU'S.
THUMP

...
WAAAAH!
WHOAAA, IS THIS GUY FOR REAL?!
HIS BALL TOOK THE SAME FLIGHT PATH AS SUZAKU-SAN'S— AND EVEN HIT IT!
BRIDGESTONE GOLF
SUZAKU
KLACK
OH. I FORGOT TO SAY THIS BEFORE. SORRY.
HMMM? WELL, WELL...
SHUR
SHUR
I LIKE YOUR STYLE!
HERE'S TO A GOOD GAME.
TO BE CONTINUED...